The Valley Patriot

"Congress shall make no law..."

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valleypatriot.com

April, 2022
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Community Comes Together!

Valley Patriot Readers Donate More Than $33K to Local Students

PHOTO: ANGEL GARCIA

Former Methuen Councilor Ron Marsan with Lisa Williams of AFC Urgent Care in Methuen to present Giancy and Yeranly Batista Jesus $4,570 in scholarship money from Valley Patriot readers at the Annual Valley Patriot BASH Scholarship & Award Night!

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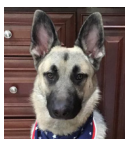

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Valley Patriot of the Month

US Army Afghanistan Veteran Jeannette Mason: Life is About Choices

John Cuddy
VALLEY PATRIOT HERO REPORTER

EDITORS NOTE: Army Veteran Jeannette Mason was given the Valley Patriot's "John Ratka Hero Veteran Award" last week at the newspaper's annual BASH Scholarship and Award Night. Valley Patriot columnist and Navy veteran, John Cuddy, presented the award. State Senator Diana DiZoglio was on hand to congratulate her.

A very active member of University of Massachusetts at Lowell's Student Veterans Organization, I met US Army Veteran Jeannette Mason at ML Shaw's Diner in Dracut for breakfast. She served our nation in Afghanistan, attached to the 101st Airborne Division, as an Airborne Parachute Rigger. The military job is categorized as military occupational specialty (MOS) 92R. These Soldiers supervise, pack and repair cargo and personnel parachutes, while maintaining jump status. The Soldiers also rig supplies, equipment, and vehicles for airdrop, while maintaining machines and tools for fabrication, modification and repair to parachute and other airdrop equipment.

In the latter part of her United States Army service, she served as a 94M, radar repair technician. These Soldiers perform and supervise unit, direct and general support (known as DS/GS) level maintenance on SENTINEL (Ground Based Sensor) and FIREFINDER radar electronic assemblies and associated equipment. The Soldiers also work doing DS/GS level maintenance on ground surveillance radars, associated equipment and meteorological equipment.

We discussed some of the fantastic officers and noncommissioned officers she served with, and some that were not so good. Jeannette said that she experienced periods of military service that were very rewarding with good leadership, and she felt serving was a real grind when assigned to units cursed with toxic leadership.

After serving ten years in the US Army, she left to attend the University of Massachusetts, currently working towards her Bachelors in Psychology. Jeannette chose the University because of its relative proximity to her family in upstate New York. She is scheduled to graduate in May of 2022 and plans on heading off to Florida Southern

College to pursue a Masters in Science in Industrial and Organizational Psychology. Florida Southern has won thirteen NCAA Division II Golf titles and in 2010 was awarded the William M. Burke Presidential Award for Excellence in Experiential Education.

Currently she is involved with the Student Veterans Organization, serving as the group's Secretary. Jeanette is also serving as the Secretary of the Psi Chi National Honor Society for Psychology / UML Chapter. She is also active in helping other Veterans in the Hidden Battles organization.

I asked her about Afghanistan; here are her thoughts in her own words. No

HERO: PAGE 16

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You Came Together to Help Others - THANK YOU

Every year The Valley Patriot holds an annual BASH Scholarship and Award Night where we give out college scholarships to high school students and awards for community heroes.

Last week's BASH was the first event in three years because of the COVID hysteria and lockdowns.

Titled "The Official Kickoff of the Return to Normal", hundreds of people crowded into the Reliefs In (in Lawrence) in what some said was the largest gathering in the Merrimack Valley since the 2020 lockdowns.

"This BASH is a night of amnesty" Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan told the crowd.

"This is a night where we put aside our personal and political differences and come together to help good people in the community who make personal sacrifices to help others."

Duggan pointed out that nearly a third of the people he recognized from the podium either didn't like him or were political adversaries.

"So, some of you here don't like me, you don't like my views, or you don't like my newspaper, yet you are here. You are here because you are mature enough to put aside your egos, and our differences to help others. I think that says a lot! We should also look around and notice who's not here tonight. They are the haters. They are the ones who care more about their images and their egos than they care about helping high school kids pay for their education."

By the end of the night, The Valley Patriot gave away more than $33,000 in college scholarships, gave away awards to two Lawrence Police Officers, three Lawrence Firefighters, three homeless advocates with a community service award, and two hero veterans who not only went off and served their country, but then came back and continued serving their community by helping veterans in need.

"This is not about me, please don't thank me," Duggan told the crowd. "I make no money on this newspaper, and I couldn't afford to give to any of the scholarships. But a wealthy friend of mine once told me you don't need to have money to do good things in the community, you just have to know people who have money."

"And I know, well ... you guys," he said pointing to the crowd as they roared with laughter.

Because of you, not because of me, eight kids tonight are a lot closer to getting a college education. And I want to say one more thing. The national media narrative about America being a racist country is a lie."

"Not one person called me and said they would like to donate to a scholarship, but they wanted to know the color of someone's skin first. Not one person said they wanted to know the sexual preference of any of the recipients, or their country of origin, or their religious, or political views."

"Remember that when you get to college and your professors start to tell you that America is an evil racist place based on discrimination."

Remember that you started your college career because dozens of people in this community, people of every race, religion, and sexual preference, donated their hard-earned money for your education and most of them don't even know you."

We never could have imagined after the COVID hysteria, the lockdowns, and the misinformation about COVID that we would ever get back to normal. But here we are.

And if anyone you know has any doubts at all, you just tell them to come to the Valley Patriot's 19th Anniversary BASH next year. ◊

YE GAY O'LE VALLEY: The Gayest Place on Earth

Dani Langevin
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

"Everyone's journey is individual. If you fall in love with a boy, you fall in love with a boy. The fact that many Americans consider it a disease says more about them than it does about homosexuality." -James Baldwin

What is happening in this country? What is this movement to oppress? Why do some Americans feel threatened when other Americans ask to be extended the same freedoms and protections as they do? For some reason, many Americans are against this. In my opinion, it is because they feel superior to these groups and by raising them to the same level as their oppressors, well, that would be tragic. What other reason is there for not allowing every human being the freedom of choice, love, speech, representation, movement and so much more?

Florida has passed a bill or is trying to pass one that is being called by some voters as the "Don't say Gay" law. It makes it illegal to discuss sexual orientation in school from K-3. Here is another instance where the right latches onto some unfounded fear, treats highly professional educators as morons and instills an unfounded panic in the heads of young parents. Can anyone bring up one instant where an elementary teacher had a conversation with their students about sexual orientation? And please don't tell me that's what is trying to be prevented. America has a habit of doing more damage than good while trying to prevent something that "might" happen all under the title of National Security: Indian Removal Act, Chinese Exclusion Act, Japanese Internment Camps, separate but equal, and so on.

Do NOT also claim it protects the LGBTQ+ community. It does not. It is irreparably harming them. It is telling them they are invisible and should remain invisible. They are nothing and should be ignored or, worse yet, be gotten rid of. Let's erase the gay out of society. It will give license to those homophobes living in Florida or in other parts of America. Do a little research. Look at the uptick in hate crimes on certain groups of people once these nefarious and racist policies were passed. If the community doesn't drive LGBTQ+ people away, some will take their own lives. Of this I have no doubt.

If this is the case in Florida, I hope they also ban any discussions of mother and father, man and wife, dating, boyfriend/girlfriend as well. This is all having to do with sexual orientation and to make it fair, lets not speak of it. In fact, I believe a law should be passed that makes it illegal for parents to have any physical contact in front of their children until they're all past the age of 10 which is when they'll be in third grade. We wouldn't want parents put into an odd situation of having to explain to their young children why they chose to be heterosexual instead of being homosexual and what that all means. It would also be best to live as roommates until your children are old enough to understand the nuances of an intimate relationship. In fact, I highly recommend separate bedrooms.

This is how ridiculous this law sounds to those who have an open, educated mind. If talking about sexual orientation, seeing it in books, TV, movies, magazines, social media, songs, greeting cards, poems, novels and everything under the sun influences one's sexual orientation then I would be straight. I grew up in a heterosexual home. My three brothers and sister are all heterosexual. As of right now, all of my nieces and nephews identify as heterosexual. NONE of them influenced me in any way other than hiding myself in a closet for 30 years and being miserable and at times suicidal.

Let me be perfectly clear: anyone who supports any bill or law that is meant to oppress and keep others silent or invisible are small minded, selfish, un-American imbeciles who are incapable of being able to rise above the cacophony of bigotry and homophobia unless they are standing on the backs of others. Oppressors understand, "...that in order for them to remain triumphant atop the mountain, somebody else had to stay put at its feet." (Nikole Hannah-Jones) They are people who know what they are doing, and they are frightened cowards. They're so afraid that if they give to others that which has been endowed to them that in some way, they will lose their power and status. Now how does that work? If a person has fallen and you give a hand to lift them up to a standing position, are you not still standing? Are you somehow less of a person because they are now standing equal to you?

I ask these clarifying questions all the time. I ask them in my columns, social media, texts, classes, and face to face. I have yet to receive a valid answer. In fact,

GAY: PAGE 23

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KEEPING PROMISES: DePena Partners with Homeless Advocates

In 2018, (then) Lawrence City Councilor Brian DePena supported a small group of volunteers called TMF, or "The Movement Family".

TMF had started setting up weekly dinners for the homeless at the Buckley Garage on Common Street, taking advantage of the overhang there, they were able to not only set up a buffet style full meal but also brought Tewksbury Detox for any homeless addict who wanted to get clean.

Within a short period of time TMF went from servicing 10 homeless people to more than a hundred a week adding a new element to the dinners as they went along.

Eventually Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera chose to prohibit TMF from using the Buckley Garage, which is owned by the city but leased out by the MVRTA during the day.

DEPENA FIGHTS FOR THE HOMELESS

Once Mayor Rivera chose to throw TMF out of the city owned bus station, the group decided to appeal to the Lawrence City Council where they failed by one vote.

On the night of that vote Councilor DePena voted in favor of TMF and promised to do what he could to help the group feed the homeless as well as work to reverse the city's decision.

TMF found a private lot on South Broadway where they have been holding their weekly homeless dinners for the past two years. Mayor Brian DePena regularly donated food each month to the homeless dinners asking not to be thanked publicly.

KEEPING PROMISES

Last month, the newly elected Mayor DePena called Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan and TMF's leader Michael Gorman to his office to discuss letting TMF return to the bus station.

"I understand how hard it is to work with this population, especially with the politicos sometimes getting in the way," he told Gorman and Duggan.

"Let's put together an agreement between TMF and the city so that you can go back to the bus station and have a roof over your heads while the homeless are eating but agreeing to clean the area when you are done."

While the agreement was being worked on over the next few weeks, Salvatore's Restaurant owners Phillip Wood and Michael Agricola donated a full dinner at the restaurant for the homeless on a night that was snowing and cold.

As the homeless filtered into the function room at Salvatore's for a gourmet meal Lawrence Mayor Brian DePena took a microphone and thanked TMF for their efforts in the community and announced that TMF and the City had come to an agreement to let TMF go back to the bus station pending city council approval.

A week later, the city council voted 7-1 to give an emergency permit to TMF for 90 days to return to the Buckley Garage and will vote at the next meeting on whether or not to extend the 90 days to up to two years as requested by the group.

"People may not know this," Lawrence resident Kevin Droin told the city council, but these people do a lot more than feed the homeless on Wednesday nights."

Droin explained how TMF had partnered with Tewksbury Detox and other organizations to get homeless addicts into rehab or transitional housing.

According to TMF's leader Michael Gorman the group has gotten more than 40 people off the streets and into rehab or housing over the last four years.

"I know the concern for some is that having these dinners will attract more homeless to the city, but TMF is actually getting people off the streets, who else is doing that?"

After the 7-1 vote in favor of TMF's return to the Buckley Garage Gorman said that he was very grateful for Jackie Marmol and Octavian Spanner and everyone in the mayor's office including the mayor himself for their support.

Michael Gorman of TMF with Lawrence Mayor Brian DePena and Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan announcing the group's return to the Buckley Garage on Common Street for the weekly homeless dinners.

Phillip Wood (far left) and Michael Agricola (far right) owners of Salvatore's Restaurant in Lawrence sponsored a free dinner at the function hall last month to feed the homeless. Salvatore's fed more than 50 people at no cost.

"This was a big win for us. These kids were crushed when we had to move from a garage with an overhang to a wide-open lot with no protection from the elements. But they continued to come and volunteer every week and now we have a chance to have homeless people eating their food without being rained on or snowed on, which means we will have more people come for dinner. I can't express how grateful I am to Mayor DePena and his office for doing this." ◊

State Money Flowing to Our Communities

Linda Dean Campbell
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

The Massachusetts House of Representatives has passed legislation to invest $350 million in key transportation improvements across the Commonwealth – a necessary investment for economic growth and quality of life in our communities. The bill includes $200 million for the Chapter 90 program, which provides funding to cities and towns for road improvement projects. Of this funding, Methuen is expected to receive nearly $1.2 million, and Haverhill is expected to receive roughly $1.5 million.

The bill also allocates substantial additional funding to be distributed to communities in the form of grants – including $40 million to repair non-federally aided roads and bridges; $30 million for bridge repairs through the Municipal Small Bridge Program; $30 million for the Complete Streets Program to help our streets accommodate various transit options (e.g. biking, walking, driving); $25 million to increase access to public transit and commuter rail stations; and $25 million to enhance bus transit. This funding will have a tangible impact on residents' day-to-day lives, making transportation easier and safer.

The Massachusetts House and Senate also passed a $1.67 billion funding bill to support the immediate needs of residents, businesses, and cities and towns, while also taking advantage of timely federal reimbursement opportunities.

The bill includes $100 million for rent assistance, $20 million for fuel assistance, and $100 million for grants to cities and towns to repair roads that suffered winter damage. Additional highlights include $55 million to increase rates for human service providers and $140 million to support staffing and program needs at special education schools.

The bill also allocates $10 million to aid in the resettlement of Ukrainian refugees and directs the Commonwealth to divest state pension funds from Russian-involved companies.

To continue support for our restaurant industry, the bill extends authorization for outdoor dining and to-go cocktails

for another year. It also exempts the Commonwealth's COVID-19 bonuses for essential workers from state income tax, ensuring workers receive the maximum benefit from these payments.

Our Commonwealth also has the opportunity to take advantage of federal FEMA reimbursements to proactively prepare for future variants of COVID-19. As such, this bill allocates $700 million for COVID-related costs, including $433 million for testing, $125 million for workforce costs, $72 million for treatments, and $45 million for expanding vaccination access. The bill is now before the Governor.

State Representative Linda Dean Campbell represents the cities of Methuen and Haverhill in the State Legislature. She serves as House Chair of the Joint Committee on Advanced IT, the Internet and Cybersecurity. She can be reached at Linda.Campbell@mahouse.gov or (617) 722-2676. ◊

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TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK

2022 Valley Patriot BASH Scholarship Donation Totals

LAWRENCE HIGH JRROTC	$4,325
GR. LAWRENCE TECH	$4,570
HAVERHILL HIGH – BENEDETTI	$4,300
WHITTIER	$4,275
METHUEN HIGH – STUDIO 21	$3,775
DAN COADY MEMORIAL	$7,390
*SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOLARSHIP	$4,860
TOTAL	$33,495

Thanks to readers of this newspaper for donating more than $33K to our scholarship drive at this year's BASH! Every penny donated went directly to each scholarship student for their education!

WHAT A BASH!!

Not only did we have the highest attendance in BASH history, but this year's Valley Patriot BASH Scholarship and Award Night raised more money for college scholarships than any previous year. Thank you to all our donors

DAN COADY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP DONORS: $7,390

Al Veilleux - $1,000.00
Gil Medeiros - $50.00
Matt Fitzgerald - $250.00
Michelle Mills - $25.00
Patrick Ord - $100.00
Dan Swabrick - $25.00
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(ANONYMOUS!) - $20.00
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Kenneth Brush - $100.00
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(ANONYMOUS!) - $100.00
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Kristen Rollins - $50.00
Tara Dinsmore - $20.00
Aimee Sullivan - $50.00
Allison Smith - $25.00
Jennifer Crocker - $50.00
Kathleen Loughlin - $50.00
Lawrence Savoia - $50.00
Joe Cafiso - $100.00
Ben and Nhi Wallens - $25.00
Eileen Pinard - $1,000.00
North East Snow Services - $100.00
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James Valcourt - $100.00
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Brianna Tirone - $50.00
Linette Perez - $100.00
Marc Laplant - $250.00
Al Apperti - $50.00
Ben and Nhi Wallens - $25.00
Anonymous - $500.00
Linda and Scott Evans - $100.00
Stacy Anne - $50.00
Brian Genest - $100.00
Spehanie A - $100.00
Eugene Smith - $1,300.00
Dan Bryant - $100.00
Dav-ID Consoli - $200.00

MICHELLE DELUCA BENEDETTI SCHOLARSHIP DONORS

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Ben and Nhi Wallens - $50.00
Ken Deluca - $165.00
Christine Levesque - $200.00
Rep Lenny Mirra - $100.00
Haverhill Mayor Fiorentini - $50.00
Spehanie A - $100.00
New England PBA Dan Strange Scholarship - $1,000.00

GR. LAWRENCE TECH SCHOLARSHIP DONORS

TOTAL: $4,570
Kathleen Laplante - $200.00
Mike Gagliardi - Laborers Unioin LOCAL 175 - $1,000.00
Rosa Aquino - $100.00
William Mannion - $25.00
Anonymous - $20.00
Sara Dumont - $50.00
Building Wreckers Union Local 1421 - $500.00
AFC URGENT CARE - $1,000.00
Jessica Finocchiaro - $100.00
Mary N. DiZazzo-Trumbull - $50.00
Dj Beauregard - $200.00
Stephanue Infante - $100.00
Frank Surillo - $100.00
Ryan Hamilton - $100.00
Ben and Nhi Wallens - $25.00
Ron Marsan - $1,000.00

WHITTIER TECH SCHOLARSHIP

TOTAL: $4,275
Al Veilleux - $1,000.00
Al Veilleux - $900.00
Jan Ravgiala - $100.00
Steve Spaulding - $200.00
Methuen Councilor Saffie - $100.00
Anonymous - $50.00
Paula Ming Todd - $100.00
Katie Amari - $100.00
Sam Amari - $100.00
Ben and Nhi Wallens - $25.00
Robin Parsons - $25.00
Anonymous - $500.00
Mary Anderson - $25.00

NEXT PAGE

WINSTON SAYS!

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Rep Lenny Mirra - $100.00
Mike Thibodeau - $100.00
Al Veilleux - $600.00

STUDIO 21 PODCAST CAFE
METHUEN HIGH SCHOOL
TOTAL: $3,775

Dave Garofolo - Studio 21 Podcast Café - $2,100.00
Councilor Joel Faretra - $50.00
Lillian Michaud - $100.00
Jana Zanni Pesce - $100.00
Steve Zanni - $100.00
Councilor Nick DiZoglio - $100.00
Jessica Finocchiaro - $50.00
Ryan Dizoglio - $100.00
DJ Beauregard - $100.00
Francisco Paulino - $250.00
Ryan Hamilton - $100.00
Lillian Michaud - $100.00
Ben and Nhi Wallens - $25.00
Anonymous - $500.00

SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOLARSHIP
TOTAL: $4,860

Darlene Ford - $50.00
Carmen Paulino - $100.00
Marcos Devers - $200.00
George Niang - $400.00
Al Veilleux - $500.00
Tara Krch - $100.00
Matt Mclennan - $200.00
Patrick Ord - $100.00
Clarissa Berube - $350.00
Francisco Paulino - $250.00
Joanna Juralewicz - $50.00
Michael & Janice Solomon - $100.00
Mary Ellen Kalil - $50.00
Keith Wlodyka - $160.00
Gayle Linton - $50.00
ANONYMOUS - $500.00
Ben and Nhi Wallens - $25.00
Franz Acres Association - $1,500.00
ANONYMOUS - $50.00
Chris Eldredge - $25.00
Stephanie A - $100.00

VALLEY PATRIOT AWARD WINNERS

Besides scholarships, The Valley Patriot also gives out several awards to heroes in our community. This year we gave out awards in three categories.

The OFFICER TOM DUGGAN HERO PUBLIC SAFETY AWARD this year went to Lawrence Police Officers Thomas Meyers and Timothy Dube as well as Lawrence Firefighters Wilson Ventura, Rene Lavallee, and Rick Mendonca for saving the life of hero police officer Carl Farrington after he was driven over by two men he had been in a shootout with.

The SCOTT CLEGG GOODWILL AMBASSADOR AWARD this year was granted to three people.

* Methuen's Linda Soucy for her work in starting and running the Methuen Arlington Neighborhood Association, and for chasing drug dealers out of her neighborhood.

* Carrie Clark Weiland of House of Mercy in Lawrence and Isaiah 58 in Salem NH for her work feeding, clothing, and working intimately with the homeless to help them get into treatment and housing.

* Nancy "Mamma G" Gorman, mother of TMF's Michael Gorman, "Mamma G" takes all the leftover food and donated clothing from her son's homeless dinners and drives around the most dangerous areas of Lawrence to give out to homeless people who didn't attend the weekly dinner.

THE JOHN RATKA HERO VETERAN AWARD

Named for the founder of Veteran's Northeast Outreach in Haverhill, the John Ratka Hero Veteran Award was originally called just the "Hero Veteran Award". When John Ratka passed away in 2019, he had already received this award, so the BASH Committee chose to permanently name the award for Ratka.

The first John Ratka Award was given to US Army Veteran Jeannette Mason (see page 1)

The second John Ratka Hero Veteran Award was given to Jason Gilbert of Clear Path for Veterans New England for his work with homeless veterans, helping veterans get basic health and mental health services, as well as service dogs, food, housing, and fulfilling other needs veterans have in the community. *

EYE ON DRACUT

Lazy River Fires up Craft Cannabis Cultivation

By Brian Genest
VALLEY PATRIOT DRACUT COLUMNIST

Don't be fooled by the company name. At Lazy River Products in Dracut, there's a strong current of ongoing activity, focused on both the growth of quality cannabis and the blooming business. From retail sales and cultivation to R&D and wholesaling, things are on fire at the company headquarters on Broadway Road.

Founded by three friends who met in elementary school – William Cassotis, Kevin Platt and Mark Leal – Lazy River came afloat in March 2020. More than $15 million has been invested in the purchase of the property and construction of a two-story, 40,000-square foot, state-of-the-art facility that includes a retail showroom, cultivation plant, laboratory and kitchen.

To get into the facility, retail customers must show their ID at a security checkpoint and get buzzed into the showroom. They must show their ID a second time before making any purchases. The showroom is protected by security personnel, multiple cameras and other stringent safeguards.

"Security is a big focus for the town, the state and for us, too," Cassotis, president & CEO, told me in the busy retail showroom at the beginning of a guided tour on a recent Friday afternoon.

Products in the showroom are displayed in an Apple Store type of approach, grouped together by type in modern, matching, glass-top tables. Detailed information about each product is provided.

The clientele and the products available for sale may surprise you. It's not just younger adults consuming cannabis products; customers cover all backgrounds and age ranges, from 21 to senior citizens. With the legalization of cannabis for medicinal and adult recreational use, the negative stoner stigma – being lazy and paranoid with a case of the munchies – has mostly gone up in smoke. Today, adults of all ages are using cannabis products – flower, concentrates, edibles, tinctures, lotions, even bath salts – to be more creative, sleep better, relieve pain and take advantage of other benefits.

Retail sales are only the tip of the iceberg. As a cultivator of craft cannabis, the focus at Lazy River is on quality, innovation and attention to detail from seed to sale. The cultivation plant has been carefully designed to provide the proper environmental conditions throughout the growing process.

The growth process for each strain begins with 100 seeds. The 50 male seeds are discarded, and the 50 female seeds are germinated. The plant with the most indicative qualities of the 50 becomes the mother. In the mother room, clippings are taken from the mother plants and are rooted in seed trays. Once the plants reach 8 inches, they're transplanted into individual pots and are moved through a series of rooms for growing, harvesting, drying, curing, trimming, cleaning up, finishing, storing and packaging.

Right now, 65 full-time employees work at Lazy River. Thanks to the expanding production of cannabis and edibles, as well as wholesaling efforts, another 35 employees are expected to be brought on board this year in the lab, kitchen and other departments.

As part of its agreement with the town, Lazy River is committed to hiring local residents for 50% of the company's jobs. In addition, Dracut gets 3% of all gross revenue, paid to the town quarterly.

From June to October, Lazy River holds an outdoor monthly Riverfest event featuring live music, beer and wine sales, food trucks and various vendors.

Get information about online and in-store shopping, job opportunities and more at https://lazyriverproducts.com

— Brian Genest is the producer and host of Eye on Dracut, a monthly news magazine show about town happenings that airs on DATV Channel 8 and online at DracutTV.org. ◊

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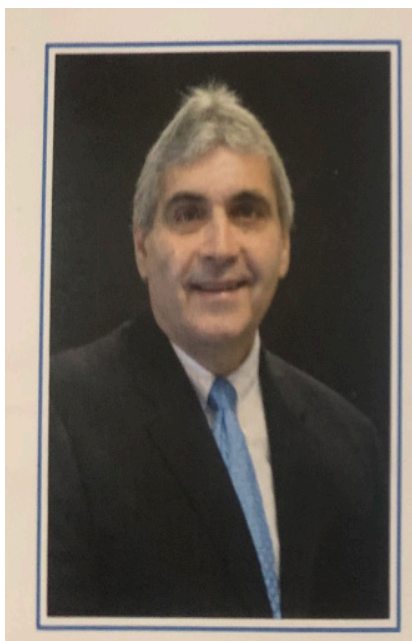
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Lawrence Police, Firefighters Receive Officer Tom Duggan, Sr. Hero Public Safety Award

PHOTO ALEX GARCIA

PHOTO ALEX GARCIA

Lawrence Police Officer Carl Farrington told the harrowing story of the night he almost died after two criminals drove over him after a shootout, nearly tearing his leg completely off. Top left Farrington looks on after Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan gives the Officer Tom Duggan Sr.. Hero Public Safety Award to Fire Lt. Rene Lavallee and Firefighter Rick Mendonca who helped save his life that night. Above Right, Lawrence City Councilor Estela Reyes, Officer Farrington, Lawrence Police Officer Tim Dube who was Farrington's backup that night and helped save his life, Officer Paul MacMillan (president of the patrolman's union) and Officer Salman Dah (vice President of the union) ◊

Veteran Jason Gilbert of Clear Path Receives the John Ratka Hero Veteran Award

PHOTO ALEX GARCIA

Because honoring veterans is so much a part of what we do at The Valley Patriot, each year we honor people who themselves honor our hero service men and women here at home. With the passing of our good friend and hero veteran John Ratka in 2019 this award was immediately named in his honor as the founder of Veterans Northeast Outreach in Haverhill.

This award is given to veterans who service other veterans as we see that as the highest level of community service.

As an honor to his best friend John Ratka, former award winner Randy Carter of Methuen took the microphone to surprise his friend Jason Gilbert, who worked with Ratka and was very close to him.

Carter talked about Gilbert's military service and the countless homeless veterans he has helped get off the streets while dozens of fellow veterans looked on and called out Jason's name.

"Having an award with John's name on it is... I just don't know what to say," Gilbert said choking up.

"I am so grateful for this, thank you to Randy and everyone here.

As an award winner Jason will get to nominate someone to receive this award next year at the Valley Patriot's 19th Anniversary BASH. Date TBD. ◊

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Whittier Tech's Grace Parsons Receives $4,275 Scholarship At Annual BASH!

The Valley Patriot's Whittier Tech Scholarship was started by Whittier Tech alum Al Veilleux. This year he donated more than $2,500 to this scholarship this year.

Flanked by Whittier Tech Superintendent Maureen Lynch, Al Veilleux, State Rep. Lenny Mirra, Haverhill School Committeeman Scott Wood, and her family, Grace Parsons was presented with a check for $4,275 before a packed house at the Relief's In in Lawrence.

Grace Parsons is a Haverhill resident and a senior at Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School. Grace is an exceptional student who ranks at the top of her class and is enrolled in Whittier's most challenging courses. Her vocational program is culinary arts. Outside of the classroom, Grace is a peer leader, volleyball athlete and a member of the chess club. Additionally, she is an inductee to the elite National Technical Honor Society and a shift lead at the local Chick-Fil-A.

Grace and her family recently endured a devastating loss. Grace's dad passed away unexpectedly from COVID in January. It is Grace's desire to make her dad proud by being the first college graduate in their family.

Even in the face of this recent tragedy, Grace continues to excel and remain positive about her future. After her graduation from Whittier, Grace plans to attend Johnson and Wales University in Providence, R.I. to continue pursuing her culinary passion.

After the scholarship was presented, Al Veilleux, the founder and largest donor to this scholarship, won the 50/50 raffle and donated another $600 to Grace for her college education.

"Tonight, it's about the kids. They were robbed of dances, and proms, and socialization in school for two years of their high school career. In the spirit of this BASH and all it means I couldn't have kept that money; Grace deserves it." ◊

PHOTO ALEX GARCIA

A Job Well Done by MASSPORT Police Officer Matt Flynn

By: Jerry Flynn, NEPBA Executive Director

Last night I received a phone call which every parent, spouse or a family member of a police officer hope to never receive, but knows it is always a possibility.

The call was from a Police Lieutenant Chris Ryan with the Massachusetts Port Authority Police Department who woke me from a sound sleep.

He said, "Jerry, I don't know the whole story yet, but they are transporting your son Matt to Massachusetts General Hospital." I knew Matt was working last night because I stopped over his house yesterday to see his daughter Tegan and he was getting ready for work.

I immediately asked, "is he OK?"

Not knowing if he was shot, stabbed or in a motor vehicle accident. The Lt. said, "I'm not working, but he's a hero!"

Those words have a different meaning to those of us who are or were police officers and it's NOT usually good!

I said, "let me call you back!"

I immediately called Matt's cell phone and received no answer. Of course, Joellen overheard the entire conversation and was in full panic mode asking me what happen - to which I didn't have a clue or how to tell his mother what I was thinking.

I again called Lt. Ryan back and said do you have any other information - he stated, "he's at Mass General being treated and he saved a woman's life."

I too was in a full panic, so I thanked him - hung up and called Matt's phone one last time before I was getting ready to fly down to Boston.

After numerous rings, I heard his voice say, "Dad, I'm ok, but I'm being treated for hyperthermia - I will call you later."

Needless to say, I was excited to hear his voice and thrilled he was ok.

But I still didn't know what happened and he was subsequently released from the hospital, and he went home without calling me last night.

Matt has always been a quiet, reserved person who never talks about himself, but is an advocate for those less fortunate and as always made me proud of him and was the pride of his grandfather's eye and his only grandson.

Last night was no different. Matt was on patrol in the East Boston area of MASSPORT and they are not allowed via policy to drive their cruiser thru the park area, which abuts the harbor.

So, as he was walking, he observed a distraught female hanging over the edge of a railing above the frigid dark waters of Boston Harbor.

As he approached her, she stated she was going to commit suicide and after he observed she had no weapons, he immediately called his supervisors for assistance and he attempted to talk to her as he got closer, he was able to grab her.

But she fought loose and jumped into the harbor. Matt immediately took off his gun belt but knew if he went back to the cruiser to get a rope or the lifesaving flotation device, he would lose sight of her, and she would surely drown.

He immediately jumped in the frigid (40 degree) water of Boston Harbor during high tide and with total disregard for his own personal safety, he swam and was able get to her.

Matt held on to her for nearly 15 minutes until the boat rescue team arrived and pulled them both to safety.

His actions were indeed heroic, but they reminded me of the horrific different circumstances that happened to Worcester Police Officer Manny Familia who drowned doing exactly what Mass Port Police Officer Matt Flynn did last evening.

As the father of Officer Matt Flynn, I am extremely proud of him and the man he has become. This was a boy who always wanted to be a police officer and he always did the right thing. Like his grandfather, Matt was always a strong swimmer, and I am sure he was looking out for him last night.

This is not the first time Matt helped a distraught person nor is it the first time he has been cited for bravery. But his heroic actions on this night could have been catastrophic, if not for the grace of God.

As Lt. Ryan said to me today - "No matter what you did in your career, you will now be known simply as Matt Flynn's father."

I said, "that's fine because he's always been my HERO and his grandfather would be so proud of him."

GOD BLESS YOU, MATT. A JOB WELL DONE, SON! ◊

Haverhill High Student Takes Home $4,200 from Valley Patriot Readers at Annual Charity BASH

Haverhill High School Senior Maxwell Bourque received two scholarships and a check in the amount of $4,300 at the Valley Patriot's 18th Anniversary BASH Scholarship and Award Night.

Bourque took home a $1,000 scholarship from the New England Police Benevolent Association (Thanks to Jerry Flynn and the board) kicking off the first annual Dan Strange Memorial Scholarship. He also received $3,300 collected from an on-line scholarship drive in the name of Michelle DeLuca Benedetti.

Bourque was selected by Haverhill School Committeeman Scott Wood, who screened all nominees for the scholarship.

DeLuca-Benedetti's brother Ken DeLuca was on hand to present a check with State Rep. Lenny Mirra on hand as well as Boxford Police Chief James Riter, and Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan.

Maxwell Bourque is graduating from Haverhill High School and will be attending American International College in Springfield, Massachusetts this fall.

He was recruited by AIC to play football and is majoring in Criminal Justice. Max is an accomplished three season, 4-year varsity athlete for Haverhill High School. He played linebacker for the school's football team and competed on the winter and spring track teams. He works 30 hours a week at the Sylvan Street Grille in Salisbury while maintaining solid academic status in honors and Early College classes.

The Michelle DeLuca Benedetti Memorial Scholarship was established by her brother Ken DeLuca for a Haverhill High School senior going into Criminal Justice or Social Work in the fall. Michelle (DeLuca) Benedetti, 51, wife of Joseph A. Benedetti, passed away May 30, 2019, at High Pointe Hospice in Haverhill after a courageous battle with cancer. For 21 years she was employed with the State of Massachusetts in the Department of Children and Families as a Social Worker and Supervisor, working in the Haverhill Office since 2001.

PHOTO ALEX GARCIA

The Dan Strange Memorial Scholarship is in the name of Dan Strange who died in 2020. He was the Valley Patriot's biggest supporter, a Secret Service Agent, was a member of many law enforcement organizations, including the New England Police Benevolent Association (NEPBA). Dan was the Chairman of the NEPBA Charitable Foundation. He was also the Chairman of the NEPBA Scholarship Fund. WE ALL MISS HIM! ◊

Amesbury Spreads The Love

AMESBURY – It's said that love is best demonstrated through actions, and not words. For Amesbury area businesses, they lived up to that expectation during their February Spread the Love campaign.

"We had approximately 2-dozen businesses serve as collection sites as we encouraged the public to donate jars of peanut butter and jelly," explained Megan Gaiero, a member of the Amesbury Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors. "These donations were gathered to benefit our friends at Our Neighbors' Table."

Gaiero, Branch Manager for the Institution for Savings in Amesbury, spearheaded the 2022 Spread the Love campaign to collect donations of peanut butter and jelly.

"We saw a 40 per cent jump in our total collections when compared to our last drive in 2019," explained Gaiero. "The outpouring of support was amazing."

Gaiero noted that over 1,400 lbs. worth of food was donated.

"We had members of the Chamber who were on vacation and shipped donations," explained Gaiero. "We had restaurants tap their storerooms and donate. Our own, local jelly producers at R. E. Kimball & Company even rolled out the dolly and delivered cases of Amesbury-made goods."

Our Neighbors' Table welcomed the support.

"For 30 years, Amesbury businesses have been at the forefront of building ONT's mission of nourishing food, kindness and dignity," said Lyndsey Haight, Executive Director of Our Neighbors' Table.

"Their support didn't falter during the COVID crisis. What a better way to set the tone for our "new normal" than with Spread the Love!"

In 2021, more than 1.2 million pounds of groceries were distributed through Our Neighbors' Table's online grocery market, serving more than 1,400 neighbors in Amesbury alone.

"It's worth so much more than the 1400 pounds of peanut butter and jelly to know your community is here for you when you need a helping hand," said Haight. "Thank you to Megan [Gaiero] for getting it going, to R.E. Kimball for your personal touch, and to every member of the Chamber who makes food security a priority in your business!"

If you're interested in supporting Our Neighbors' Table and their mission of providing nourishing food, kindness and dignity, please visit their website at www.OurNeighborsTable.org. ◊

AMESBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Now accepting School Choice applications for the 2022-2023 school year

The Amesbury School District is unconditionally committed to every child, ensuring that all students experience success through the development of attitudes and skills necessary for lifelong learning by providing the highest quality staff, meaningful learning experiences, and a vitally involved community.

Application deadline: May 13. Selection is by lottery and conditional upon availability in each grade.

Visit
schools.amesburyma.gov
for more details and to
download an application.

From the Desk of Representative Marcos Devers

Supporting The Work and Family Mobility Act

March in State Representative Marcos Devers' office began with a change of scenery. With the reopening of the State House in late February, Rep. Devers moved into the office space of the Transportation Committee, where he serves as Vice Chair. Rep. Devers continues to assist constituents with issues such as housing, unemployment, and transportation. For those who have questions or need assistance, Representative Devers can be contacted at marcos.devers@mahouse.gov. Rep. Devers was active in Lawrence this month, attending several events with local nonprofits and city officials, including the signing ceremony to rebuild the Leahy School to celebrating the opening of Lawrence Veteran Services' new Resource Center.

This month, the focus of the office was on preparations for the Fiscal Year 2023 budget process which will take place in April. Throughout the month, the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, of which Rep. Devers is a part, held four hearings on the Governor's FY'23 budget, which was submitted to the Legislature in late January. The hearings this month focused on economic development, housing, labor, health and human services, energy, the environment, transportation, education, local aid, public safety, and the judiciary.

In addition to attending Ways and Means Committee hearings about the state budget process, Representative Devers continued to develop his priorities for this year's budget. By curating a list of budget priorities that will be beneficial to Lawrence, Representative Devers continues to garner support for programs and funding opportunities that will have a positive impact on his constituents and community. Additionally, this month, Representative Devers and his staff attended meetings with around a dozen local and state-wide organizations with programs in Lawrence regarding the budget process. Apart from the Joint Committee on Ways and Means hearings, Representative Devers attended one hearing of the Joint Committee on Transportation as well as meetings of the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus (MBLLC) and the Gateway Cities Caucus.

It was a relatively busy month for the overall House of Representatives, as there were four Formal House Sessions held this month. On March 3rd, the House passed H.4515 (An Act advancing offshore wind and clean energy) with bipartisan support. Representative Devers voted in favor of the bill, which, if signed into law, would greatly change the offshore wind procurement process, generating more investment in the industry, modernizing the electrical grid, and furthering job growth. The legislation would also help the state achieve its requirement of zero net emissions by 2050.

During the second session, the House passed a supplemental budget for Fiscal Year 2022. Representative Devers voted in favor of the legislation, and it passed, including quite a few amendments of which Representative Devers was a co-sponsor. These amendments included

DEVERS: PAGE 16

Improving Safety and Transparency at Our Veterans' Homes

IN YOUR CORNER with SENATOR DIZOGLIO

Hello Valley Patriot Readers,

During the COVID-19 pandemic, 77 residents of the Holyoke Soldiers' Home tragically died of the virus – the deadliest outbreak at a long-term care facility in the United States over the course of the pandemic. In late March 2020, there had been 230 residents at the home. By the end of that April, only about 100 remained.

A report, commissioned by the Governor and released that summer, was critical of the home's superintendent for mishandling the outbreak and making decisions that made little sense from an infection-control perspective. The report noted that veterans with COVID-19 were often placed in the same location as veterans without the virus; that infected residents were not properly isolated; and that residents with symptoms were often not tested.

Ultimately, the superintendent was placed on administrative leave, subsequently fired and later indicted on charges of reckless bodily injury to an elder or disabled person.

Recently, in response to this tragedy, the Massachusetts State Senate passed legislation to increase public oversight over the administration of the state-operated veterans' homes, both in Holyoke and Chelsea. To improve safety and transparency at the veterans' homes, the bill restructures the chain of command to more closely match established administrative practices used in hospitals and other large organizations.

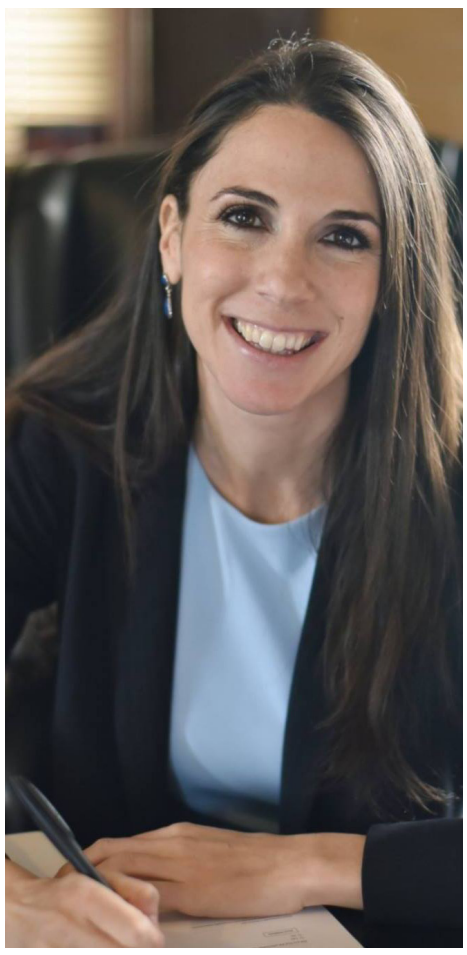
Under the legislation, a new, full-time ombudsperson would receive, investigate, and assist in resolving complaints related to the health and wellbeing of veterans' homes' residents and staff. To effectively aid these efforts, a public hotline would be created for residents and staff to direct concerns. The bill would also task the state's Department of Public Health (DPH) with regularly inspecting the homes, with all inspection reports made publicly available. Veterans' homes would be required to be licensed as long-term care facilities by DPH and adhere to the same standards and regulations.

Other important provisions include ensuring that all veterans' homes are licensed as long-term care facilities; employing both an infection control specialist and an emergency preparedness specialist; having adequate infection control programs in place; establishing best practices for treating post-traumatic stress disorder; and removing existing procedural hurdles which make it harder to donate operating supplies, clothing, medical equipment and personal hygiene products veterans' homes.

There undoubtedly remains work to be done on this issue. I am continuing to strongly advocate that Senate oversight hearings, utilizing the full subpoena and record review powers within our purview with sworn testimony from the Administration, take place to investigate the alarming, unsettling and multiple layers of potential wrongdoing that occurred during the Holyoke tragedy.

The Boston Globe's investigative Spotlight Team last year released a comprehensive, scathing report that shined a spotlight on how the Administration's supposedly independent report was riddled with errors and omissions that deflected blame from the Administration onto others below them.

Families who lost loved ones to COVID-19 at the Soldiers' Home deserve answers as to the Administration's involvement and decisions. It is up to us to ascertain what truly happened there and prevent it from ever happening again.



While I will continue to push for oversight hearings, this legislation marks a significant step in the right direction. I am grateful to Senator Michael F. Rush (D-Boston) for his leadership in sponsoring this important bill and hopeful we can get it to the Governor's desk as soon as possible.

If you have any questions on this or any other issue, please feel free to contact me anytime via email at Diana.Dizoglio@masenate.gov or phone at 978-984-7747.

Yours in service,

Diana ◊

Newspaper Honors Community Heroes for Work with Poor, Addicts, Homeless

THE SCOTT CLEGG GOODWILL AMBASSADOR AWARD - A few years ago we lost a great friend and lifelong supporter of The Valley Patriot, Scott Clegg. Scott was a man who went out of his way to donate his time, money and resources to helping those less fortunate as well as honoring veterans and being active in the community. We named our Goodwill Ambassador Award for Scott so that people will always remember the goodwill he brought to our community.

Carrie Clark Weiland of House of Mercy in Lawrence, and Issah 58, in Salem N.H. has dedicated her life to helping the homeless and is never recognized for her work. Weiland not only helps the homeless get into housing, but then works with them to get furniture, help with utilities so they can sustain their new living quarters and feeds and clothes those who are still out on the streets. Carrie dedicates her life to helping those less fortunate and is deserving of a Scott Clegg Goodwill Ambassador Award.

Most people know that TMF holds a free dinner for the homeless every Wednesday at 2 South Broadway in Lawrence. But what most people don't know is that when the dinner is over, Michael Gorman's mom, Nancy "Mamma G" Gorman, drives around to all the tent cities in Lawrence to bring the leftover food to the homeless who couldn't make it to the dinner.

Methuen's Linda Soucy single handedly took on drug dealers and criminals in her neighborhood on Kirk Street, started the Methuen Arlington Neighborhood Association, a homework center for underprivileged kids, and forced city leaders to pay attention to the crime in her Neighborhood.

AAA Merrimack Valley Donates $2,500 to Weekly Homeless Dinners

During the Valley Patriot's 18th Anniversary BASH, and only a minute after TMF leader Michael Gorman's mom received an award for Community Service, Gorman himself took the microphone to thank Mayor DePena for helping the group. But before he could finish speaking Darlene Ford from AAA of the Merrimack Valley interrupted him with a giant check to make an announcement that AAA had a $2,500 donation for TMF to help them with supplies and food for their weekly homeless dinners.

Ford talked about AAA's commitment to helping the community and how impressed she was by the volunteers at TMF who make personal sacrifices to help the less fortunate.

"This is so amazing," Gorman told The Valley Patriot. "We came here to support the community and we walked away with seed money to keep the dinners going. Thank you so much to AAA Merrimack Valley and the Valley Patriot for not only spearheading our return to the bus station but also holding this event tonight. There's such pride in the community here tonight and I am really touched, really humbled by all of this. ◊

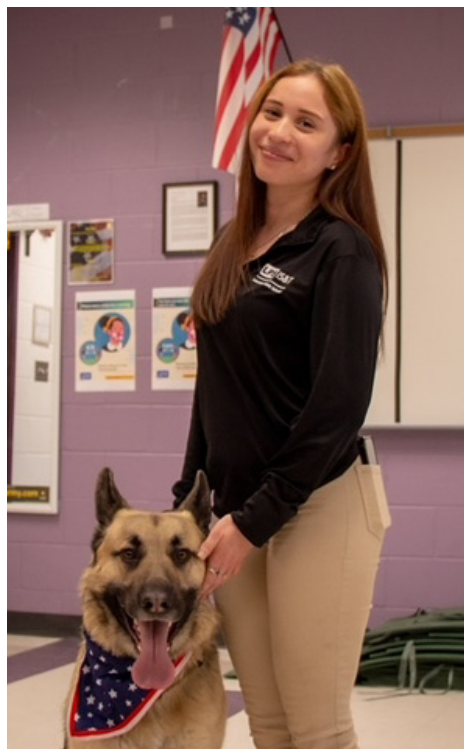
KANE'S CORNER

JrROTC Lawrence High School Cadet Lt. Colonel Katerin Ucles Wins $4,325 Scholarship at Annual BASH

KANE
VALLEY PATRIOT MASCOT

PHOTO: ANGEL GARCIA @allgmoments

Lawrence Mayor Brian DePena and Eric Melanson from the Lawrence High School Alumni Association present a placque and a scholarship check in the amount of $4,325 collected from readers of The Valley Patriot. All donors to this scholarship are listed on page 6.



Kane went on a field trip to Lawrence High School to meet Valley Patriot BASH JrROTC scholarship recipient Cadet Lt. Colonel Katerin Ucles. Kane has only been to dog school, so he felt honored to be invited to tour the Jr. ROTC wing of Lawrence high school. You see Katerin Ucles is a big deal! She must have pulled some big strings to get a dog inside. Katerin serves as the Battalion Commander in the JROTC leadership team after participating in the program for 4 years. When Kane grows up, he hopes he can be as passionate and dedicated to serving his community as Katerin is about serving hers.

Kane thought Lawrence High School was gorgeous even though he was a bit nervous on the shiny stairs, Katerin gave him a big tour. One of the highlights was meeting the seniors in the JROTC program. He felt very welcome, and everyone pet him and talked to him very nicely. The comradery in the program was contagious. He can see why Katerin says the JROTC program is a second home for her. She discussed how she enjoys seeing her fellow cadets in school but also socially outside of school.
Did you know that the Lawrence High School JROTC Program earned the Title of Massachusetts Drill State Champions? There was a lot of work that went into perfecting the team's skills.

So exactly who is Battalion Commander Katerin Ucles? Well for starters she has a big, beautiful smile and a friendly presence that is both professional and polite. Her eyes dance when she talks about her JROTC team and her plans for the future. Katerin told Kane, 'I like to test my limits, show myself what I can do.' She explained to Kane that it is important to keep moving forward. You see Katerin sees herself serving her community in the national guard as she continues her college education to pursue a career in criminal justice and law enforcement.

Kane asked her what inspired her to make these career choices? Katerin explained she wants to feel like she makes a difference, by helping people. She feels this is important work, and ultimately a helping profession. She has learned through JROTC that integrity is an important value. Her plan is to do work that she can feel proud of by serving the people of her community and country. Kane noticed how determined Katerin was to lean into her new adventure, as she said "Always keep moving forward."

Katerin Ucles with her fellow seniors at Lawrence High School

Kane asked Katerin what she would say to a high school student considering participating in JROTC? She said, "You see yourself grow' you learn how to live well and with integrity.' The instructors and fellow cadets have been like a second family for Katerin.

Kane thought her family must be very proud of her. Katerin came to the United States with her older brother when she was 8 years old from Honduras to live with her dad. She certainly has hit the ground running. Besides JROTC Katerin has a job and enjoys working out in her spare time.

Katerin has been trying to decide where she will attend school in the fall. Secretly Kane hopes Katerin will attend the University of Lowell so maybe he will see her around campus. She is looking into the Criminal Justice Program and ROTC program at the University.

Regardless of where she goes, the school will be lucky to have her. It is rare to meet an 18-year-old with such drive and focus with a very distinct path she wishes to travel.

Thank you, Katerin, for meeting with me, you are both an inspiration and leader. As a side note Katerin said I could call her "Katy", so I guess I made a friend today.

I will see Katy accept her Scholarship award at the Valley Patriot Bash, but I will keep my distance because as she explained, she will be in uniform, and I am very hairy. I will admire her accomplishment from across the room.

Kane Woof, Woof ◊

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Twins From Gr. Lawrence Tech Receive a Total of $4,570 for College from Valley Patriot Readers

This scholarship was started when (then) Greater Lawrence Tech School Board member Jessica Finocchiaro reminded Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan that he was an alum of the GLTS after the Valley Patriot had announced a scholarship for Lawrence High.

Now a city councilor in Methuen, Finocchiaro was on hand for the tenth year to announce the winners of the Valley Patriot GLTS scholarship are Giancy and Yeranly Batista Jesus of Methuen.

The Batista Jesus sisters were flanked by former Methuen Councilor Ron Marsan of Marsan and Son Contruction (who donated $1,000) and Lisa Williams of AFC Urgent Care in Methuen (who also donated $1,000) to this scholarship. Also on hand were members of the GLTS administration, former GLTS teacher and Lawrence State Rep. Marcos Devers, as well as Methuen Councilor Eunice Zeigler.

Giancy and Yeranly Batista Jesus are the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Luis Batista of Methuen, MA. Giancy is currently studying in the Dental Assisting career program and Yeranly is studying in the Medical Assisting career program. Yeranly and Giancy will both be attending Middlesex Community College in the fall and will study further in their career areas.

Giancy and Yeranly have been successful in their coursework at Greater Lawrence. Giancy has a 4.37 GPA and is currently ranked 3rd and Yeranly has a 4.17 GPA and is ranked 10th out of a class of 397 students in the Class of 2022. Yeranly and Giancy have never backed away from an academic challenge and are currently enrolled in our dual enrollment classes in English and History through Middlesex Community College. Giancy was awarded the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Book Award as a junior. Giancy and Yeranly were both awarded a John and Abigail Adams Scholarship due to their outstanding performance on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment Exams.

Yeranly and Giancy have been members of the Reggie Leaders Program and the Rising Leader Club helping

PHOTO: ANGEL GARCIA

to mentor new underclassmen as they transition to GLTS. They have also volunteered at numerous school functions and community facilities through their different career areas. Giancy is currently employed through our school's cooperative education program at the Methuen Smiles Dental Office and Yeranly at the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center Vaccine Clinic.

AFC Urgent Care's Lisa Williams said when the sisters are ready to get work study credit in college, she is willing to offer them an internship at AFC to help them fulfill their credit requirements.

"AFC Urgent Care is committed to help the community. What better way to do that, than to help kids pay for college and give them worksite training they can use for credit and in the real world." ◊

Valley Patriot Readers Donate $4,760 for Special Needs Scholarship Winner Cassie Buonanno

This is the first year The Valley Patriot offered a Special Needs Scholarship as part of the annual BASH! Inspired by former Lawrence High School teacher Phil Glendye who brought the Special Olympics to Lawrence every year and organized the event at the Lawrence Veterans Memorial Stadium. Phil passed away in 2019 prompting Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan to start a special needs scholarship in his name.

On hand was Linda Arvanitis, and Phil's widow Karen (who didn't know the scholarship was being named for her late husband.) Duggan let Karen Glendye present the check to Cassue Buonanno, flanked by Lawrence State Rep. Marcos Devers, her grandparents John and Brenda Rozzi, and Eric Melanson from the Lawrence High Alumni Association.

Cassie is Autistic and has ADHD. She is a graphic communications student at the Gr. Lawrence Tech School in Andover. Cassie says she never thought she would be going to college with her disabilities but has been accepted to FIRST Institute to pursue a digital media degree. She says her outside interest is acting in plays at Acting Out. Cassie's mom is an alumnus of the school who graduated in 1994. Because of a medical procedure she is now on a trachea and a ventilator, confined to a wheelchair. Unfortunately, she will not be able to see me graduate.

PHOTO: RICH RUSSELL

Cassie lives with her "Bubbe and Papa" (Brenda and John Rozzi) "who have brought me up and have always been there to help and guide me in all of my endeavors. I want to thank them for always being there for me." ◊

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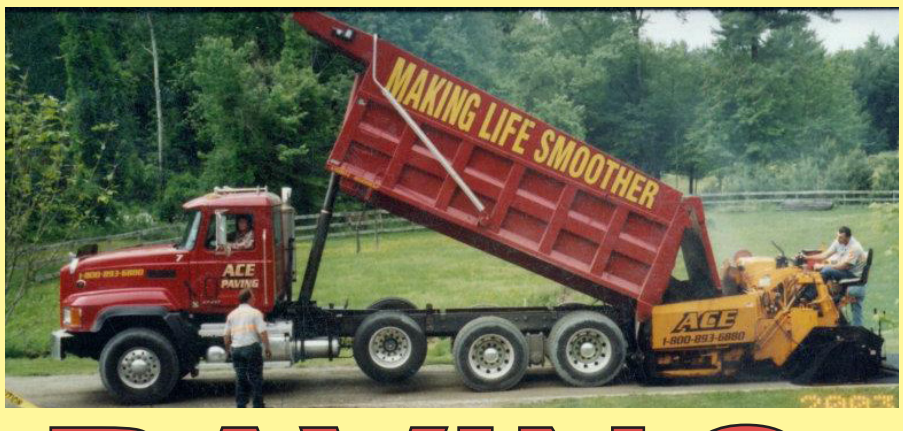

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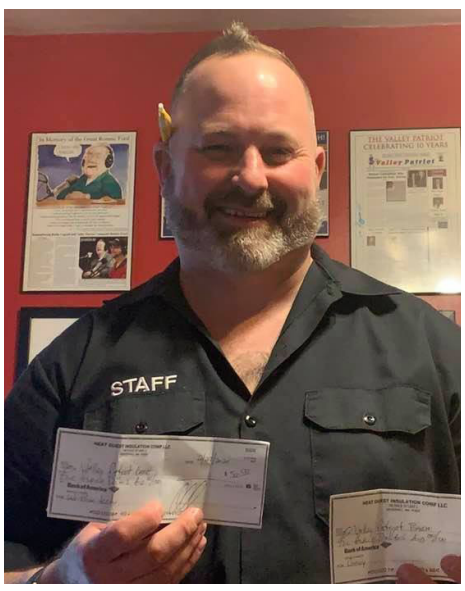

PHOTO: ANGEL GARCIA

Al Veilleux of Haverhill started the Dan Coady Memorial Scholarship four years ago after Coady was killed on Rte. 495 while towing a car for Coady's Towing in Lawrence. This year the scholarship was given to his son Patrick (second from left) in the amount of $7,390.

Dan Coady Memorial Scholarship Given to His Son Patrick Thanks to a Stranger with a Heart!

Four years ago, one of our readers, Al Veilleux donated the first $500 to start a scholarship in memory of Dan Coady Jr. who was killed in tragic accident on Rt. 495 just a week before our annual BASH in 2018.

Each year Al asks that we keep the Dan Coady Memorial Scholarship going for students who attended the Thomson Grammar School in North Andover where at least one of Dan Coady's children attended at the time.

Al's goal was to keep this scholarship going every year in the hopes that Dan's children will be able to receive this scholarship when they graduate from High School.

This year, Coady's son Patrick is graduating from North Andover High School and was given this scholarship in his father's name.

Al Veilleux was called to the front of the stage at the event and explained that he never met Dan Coady, but he saw the news stories "and I just had to do something, his family was in pain, his kids were in pain, and I just thought, someone needs to do something nice for these people."

A tear ran down Patrick Coady's face as he was flanked by his friends, family, and the dozens of people who donated to his scholarship.

"Tonight, we are giving away the most money we have ever raised for a single student at this annual BASH. I am proud to announce that our scholarship drive, thanks to Al Veilleux has resulted in our being able to give Patrick Coady $7,390 for his college education.

"My remarkable group of friends and the constant support from my family has made my past four years at NAHS something I am proud to say I won't ever forget," Patrick said.

"Since my freshman year, I have become a proud member of the GSA, and actively involved myself in my school's Concert Choir."

Most recently Patrick joined the High School's Honor Choir, Scarlet and Black. When he graduates from North Andover High in a few short months, he says his hope is to begin studying Culinary Arts at Johnson and Wales University in Rhode Island.

Sixty people donated to the Dan Coady Memorial Scholarship this year. Each donor and the amount they gave is listed in the Notebook on Page 6. ◊

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CELEBRATING 18 YEARS OF THE VALLEY PATRIOT

State Senator and candidate for State Auditor Diana DiZoglio was on hand at The Valley Patriot's 18th Anniversary BASH with a resolution from the state senate congratulating the newspaper for the milestone achievement.

DEVERS FROM PAGE 11

additional funding for vocational education opportunities, the Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) Bridge, language access, and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

The third formal session of the House this month was called to discuss H.4554 and H.4555. Both bills were passed in unanimous votes of the House, with Representative Devers voting in favor with his colleagues. Each piece of legislation now goes to the Senate and Governor's Office, and if approved, H.4554 will ban policies prohibiting natural hairstyles in schools, housing, and other businesses while H.4555 will create a task force to recommend what sites should be included in one of the country's first women's rights history trails.

Lastly, fourth Formal House Session was held on March 30th and gave legislators the opportunity to debate the state's annual road funding bill. The House passed $200 million in Chapter 90 funding for repairs to municipal roads and bridges as well as $150 million for other transportation programs and projects. Representative Devers, as Vice Chair of the House Committee on Transportation, voted in favor of the bill and the legislation passed the House unanimously. ◊

HERO: FROM PAGE 1

editing, I left her thoughts as her own!

"When I deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) in 2011, I was newly married to another service member.

Our marriage was rushed and problematic. Much like a lot of current marriages and relationships in the military culture, which leads to a very high divorce rate.

When duty called, he wanted me to get pregnant to get out of deployment, instead of supporting me through my duties. As a young woman I obviously was scared to go to war, but also always wanted to experience deploying to the Afghanistan Theater, and as a proud soldier, I knew that simply just having a child to escape the war was not the answer. If it hadn't been for my OEF experience and honoring my duties, the experience wouldn't have taken me out of a complicated and tumultuous relationship, which allowed me to realize my worth and what I deserve.

Although Afghanistan was one of the hardest experiences of my life, it was also one of the best. Serving in a dangerous place, working to the bone, rigging loads tirelessly into the wee morning hours to support direct artillery and infantry units. We often worked 24-hour shifts. The life changing experience of losing five comrades to a suicide bomber. I remember waking up each day, driving on, filled with anxiety and thoughts of "Will it could be me today?" Although this was all hard, and I am still healing today, I wouldn't change a thing. Why? Because it was in the military, especially OEF, where I built my strongest, most meaningful connections of friends whom I'm still close with today. Those bonds we formed as Soldiers are everlasting!

The military has played a huge part in shaping me and motivating me to do what I'd like to do now and that's help Veterans find meaning and purpose again after the Military. I paid into the GI bill and utilized the funds during my first two years at UML, then switched over to the Vocational Rehabilitation Benefit toward my last year. The Vocational Rehabilitation will be putting me through my master's program in Florida Southern.

I've learned a lot through my own experiences and struggles with these systems, it can be difficult navigating the Veterans Administration, the GI Bill, the VA Medical system. I am still learning, and I don't believe anyone of us stop learning in our life. I just hope that I can help others along the way. Last thing I'll say, and I stand by this. As individual human beings, we must be a personal advocate for our own health! No one knows you better than you! Ask the questions and dig, no one's going to do it for you!

Also, I find it important to mention, my service animal and bestie, Dixie Rose. Getting out of the military and entering civilian lifestyle after some time can be challenging and Dixie brought me back to life when I felt I needed it the most. I was in a deep depression, in which I still struggle and have my moments but seriously she makes a world of difference to me daily. She keeps me accountable each day, she is patient with me. She is always there to make me laugh, and she's there when I cry, and the world is heavy.

She also accompanies me to the VA in Bedford every week to my appointments. Every patient, nurse, doctor, fellow veteran that crosses Dixie and my path, she brings joy! In watching her kind gentle soul greet others as she does, in return it deeply brings me joy as well. Therapeutic really. I eventually want us to get involved in the volunteer therapy dog program at a VA… to spread positive moral and joy to others. Maybe even after we both move to Florida."

I found Jeannette's own words, so powerful, I did not change them. She has an older sister who served in the US Air Force, a younger sister who is a devoted caring nurse and an older brother. Her family lives in the Catskill Mountains of New York, the area was made famous by the book "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" by Washington Irving, written in 1820.

Ending this story in Jeannette's own words, "So many possibilities"...

The Dracut American Legion asks all World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Veterans, to call (603) 518-5368 and sign up for an Honor Flight to the Memorials in Washington DC! Veterans of all eras are asked to go the American Legion's Web site www.legion.org, and join the American Legion, working with Congress, preserving our Veteran's Benefits for future generations.

John Cuddy served in the US Navy's Construction Battalions (also known as the Seabees) after retiring from the US Navy; he earned a bachelor's in history and a master's in economics from the University of Massachusetts on the Lowell Campus. He has been employed in Logistics at FedEx for the last 25 years.

If you know a World War II, Korean War, or Vietnam War, Veteran who would like their story told, please email him at John.Cuddy@Yahoo.com ◊

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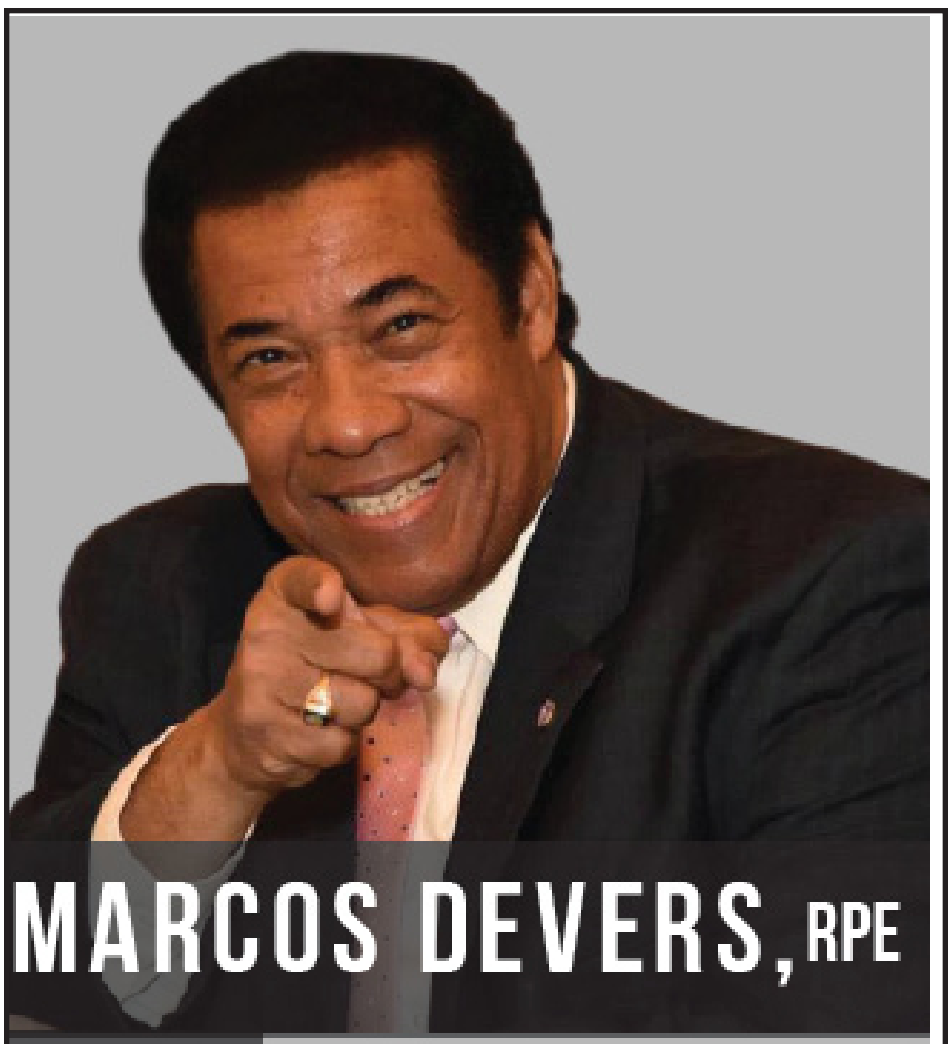

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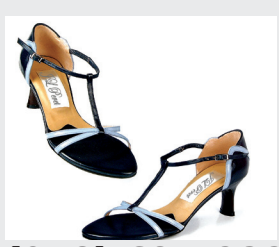

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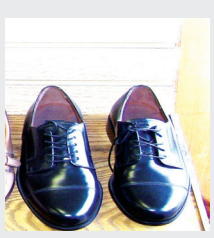

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Property Sales, Foreclosures for MARCH, 2022 in Andover, Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover. (All properties are listed in order; seller, buyer, price, address.)

Northern Essex Registry of Deeds

M. Paul Iannuccillo, Register

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth
of Massachusetts

ANDOVER

Donna Maturi, Richard & Olivia Divirgilio, 560,000, 14 Clark Rd

Coventry Development Inc, Michael & Suzanne Marinaro, 2,325,000, 44 Morton St

Nasser & Kathleen Rafiee & Kathleen Pizzuti, Abraham & Rebecca Moniri, 2,200,000, 39 Abbot St

Irene Lattanzio Living Tr & Irene & Scott Lattanzio Tr, Brandon & Rebecca Zoss, 1,400,000, 5 Tally Ho Ln

Michael & Susan Burns, Nathaniel Lee & Kirby Sabra, 1,300,000, 2 Suffolk Cir

Lisette M Mancini Living Tr & Robert J Mancini Living Tr & Lisette & Robert Mancini Tr, Jun Gao, 1,250,000, 12 Swan Ln Unit 8-4

Brian & Erin Charron, Kristine & James Buonopane, 1,239,900, 31 Pine St

Stephen & Hilary Harston, Pinkney Famliy Tr of 2019 & David & Paula Pinkney Tr, 1,200,000, 56 Carmel Rd

Paul Lashua, Kevin & Kerry Dubois, 1,125,000, 4 Wellington Cir

Craig & Sharon Saline, Nancy & Paul Stolberg, 1,080,000, 5 Forbes Ln

Elizabeth, Betsy & Richard Herald, Derek & Kara Mathieu, 1,000,000, 10 Rose Glen Dr

Carlo Cadet Jr & Tamara Cadet, Massimo & Antonella Palladino, 930,000, 6 Rose Glen Dr

Property Possible Inc, Jaclyn & Roberto Porsia, 875,000, 109 Gould Rd

30 Mary Lou Lane Realty Tr & Howard Meshnick Tr, Kimball & Mitchell Demers, 826,000, 30 Mary Lou Ln

Bay Flow LLC, Elizabeth Linardos, 800,000, 27 High Plain Rd

Michael Konjoian Irrevocable Tr & David Konjoian Tr, Michael Konjoian, 800,000, 225 Chandler Rd

Peter Galvin Jr. & Ruth Galvin, Jason & Kaitlyn Sanchez, 791,000, 17 Tiffany Ln

Thomas & Patricia Mullen, Brad & Emily Durkin, 750,000, 55 Lovejoy Rd

Stephen Tetreault & Lorraine Tetreault Est., Olivia Pathiraja, 685,000, 66 Prospect Rd

Roger Oshea, Craig Trask & Wendy Heise, 675,000, 40 Washington Ave

Katriona Macbeath & Jean Fabre, Jenny Ho & Scott Kokones, 675,000, 12 Sagamore Dr

Charles Anderson, Fuchs Joint Living Tr & James & Carol Fuchs, 620,000, 4 Summer St

Alan & Stephen Gorrie, Mattthew Faulkner & Elizabeth Kobelski, 600,000, 108 Summer St

Brian Bogosian, Judismar Alves & Maura Abreu, 600,000, 208 River Rd

Pulte Homes Of New England LLC, Lorraine P Palumbo Declaration of Tr & Lorraine Palumbo Tr, 574,995, 4 Francis Dr Unit 308

PAD Realty Tr & Patricia Tovey Tr, David Piscatelli, 525,000, 95 Jenkins Rd

JDS145 Nominee Realty Tr & Glenna Smith Tr, Are-Ma Region No 97 Holding LLC, 520,000, 145 River Rd

Justin Kurth, Justin Callahan & Juliana Conley, 455,000, 98 Haverhill St Unit B

Rekha Meera LLC, Khaled Sharafaddin, 317,500, 247 North Main St Unit 3

Duayne Habib, Chengfeng Du, 226,000, 237 North Main St Unit 12

Jennifer Aronson & Jason Carroll, Carolin Matos, 159,900, 600 Brookside Dr Unit 600L

Helen Donovan, Zheng Sun & Lin Wu, 1,256,666, 12 Odyssey Way

LAWRENCE

Monarch on the Merrimack LLC, PRCP-MA Riverwalk Lawrence LLC & Railsplitter-MA Riverwalk LLC & Alexandria Rascals-MA Riverwalk LLC & PRCP-MA Riverwalk A LLC & PRCP-MA Riverwalk Flag LLC, 74,500,000, 210-220 Merrimack St.

South Union Street LLC, PRCP-MA Riverwalk Lawrence LLC & Railsplitter-MA Riverwalk LLC & Alexandria Rascals-MA Riverwalk LLC & PRCP-MA Riverwalk A LLC & PRCP-MA Riverwalk Flag LLC, 21,500,000, 1 South Union St

Lawrence Salem St LLC, 202-204 Lawrence LLC, 937,000, 202-204 Lawrence St

Anthony Galan & Luis Gonzalez, Jesus Bueno, 710,000, 22-24 Logan St

Ann Cornejo, AG & J Realty Tr & Wendy & Jose Estrella Tr, 700,000, 41-43 Bruce St

Jordan & Trevor Thibault, Rafael Carmona, 698,000, 2-4 Reservoir Ter

Steeven Almonte & Aury Almanzar, Maryvelisse Nunez, 680,000, 46-48 Kingston St

Alberto Ortega & Albania Deortega, David Jimenez, 675,000, 38-40 Center St

51-55 High Street LLC, Carla Corniel & Angel Augusto, 675,000, 51-55 High St

Miguel Diaz & Mirtha Garcia, Franklin Mendez & Ledy Medina, 665,000, 37-39 Bowdoin St

E&G Realty Tr & Eddy Guzman Tr, Marcos Martinez & Elizabeth Jose, 635,000, 160 Franklin St

James Ruff, Manuel Morales & Juis Rosado-Mejias, 578,000, 82-84 Nesmith

Luis Diaz & Joselyn Gomez, Romain & Florence Strecker, 565,000, 16 Osgood St

Jorge Aponte & Yasilis Rondon, Fernando Pena, 510,000, 305 Water St

Adrian Coletta & Mark & Adrian Lynch, Luz Toribio & Luz Helena, 505,000, 159 Weare St

Elizabeth & Michael Lopez, Nigar Manjanova, 490,000, 1117 Essex St

678 Haverhill St LLC, Long Term Rentals LLC, 485,000, 686-688 Haverhill St

Janine Boulanger, Kimberly Vega, 450,000, 14 Oakland Rd

Codjo Anouandjinou & Carla Frejuste, Baldwin Santos, 410,000, 62 Beacon St

Nunez LLC, Boxford Properties, 382,500, 68-70 Newbury

David & Judith Mccarthy, Tammy Ortega & Shawna Cruz, 368,000, 159 Park St

Edwin & Debra Rooney, Reynaldo Dejesus, 320,000, 290 Salem St

Judith Giarrusso & Jean Burr & Four J Realty Tr, 115-125 Essex St LLC, 300,000, 125 Essex St

E Step Inc & Estep Inc, Denis Sinelshchikov & Elena Grankina, 245,000, 202 Broadway Unit 3-1

Lyford & Lori Beverage, 107 Everett Street LLC, 225,000, 107 Everett St

Stuart Schrier & Michael & Lisa Larochelle & Lisa Berube, BCAD LLC, 102,555, 2 Nightingale Ct

Parker St Realty Tr & Usta Parker Street LLC, Eric & Kyung An, 1,050,000, 155 Parker St

Mary Ditore, 179 Water St LLC, 860,000, 179-181 Water St

Josue Garcia & Carmen De Pena, Johan Sosa & Angelica Genao, 741,000, 49-51 Doyle St

Anthony Moya, Daniel Ortega, 700,000, 36-38 Atkinson St

Rafael Vega, Rainier Pimentel & Rosa Ramos, 685,000, 243 Bruce St

Pedro Castillo, Cruz Reyes, 680,000, 329 Haverhill St

Maylin & Leonides Gomez, Edwin Brito, 615,000, 20-22 Wendell St

Eddy Guzman & E&G Realty Tr, Ygnacio & Eddy Perez, 610,000, 162 Franklin St

Juan & Alejandrina Almonte, Olga Flores & Nelsi Dedifo, 600,000, 9-11 Loring St

Marie Vaccari, Nunez LLC, 600,000, 440 North Canal St

Beverly Heaphy Est & Judy Grelle, Danison Arias & Mercy Garcia, 590,000, 30-32 Sunset Ave

Ruben Delacruz, Benny Drew & Alexandra Gil & Alexandra Pena, 570,000, 18 Tyler St

David Delucia , Jessica Ramirez, 562,206, 6 Boehm St

Samuel Faulkner, Carlos Jimenez, 534,500, 11-11A Exeter St

Jose Flores-Mancia & Reina Landaverde, Papouchy Garcon, 502,000, 41 West Lowell St

Jose Betancourt, Berny Lugo & Belkis Romano, 470,000, 110 Gensee St

Steven Defusco & Joys Hersey Est, Saint Christopher Properties LLC, 465,000, 84 Myrtle St

Guillermo Franco, Yovanny Gomez & Francisca Rosa, 460,000, 86-88 Arlington St

Darien Ramirez & Reynoldo Rodriguez, Javier Arriola, 455,000, 9 Oakland Rd

Pierre & Gladys Alisma , Adalgisa Adames & Melvin Bautista, 450,000, 8 Fern St

Kiana Moudarri & Zackary Laporte, Carlos Lima, 450,000, 6 Jefferson St

Francisco & Nelkis Ventura, Lucia Dejesus & Jose Bierd, 440,000, 72 Groton St

John, Ronald & Theresa Bradley, Silezia Vieira & Cristiano Simoes, 440,000, 4 Monroe St

Yolanda Sayrs, Rachel Carvajal & Glenys Sanchez-Ceballo, 400,000, 436 South Broadway

37 Linehan St Realty Tr & Charles and Mary Boody Est & Susan Dowd Tr & Charles Boddy Jr & Jane Hart & Marjorie Haggerty, Marlin Zorrilla, 400,000, 37 Linehan St

Marquez Realty Tr & Zoila & Jose Marquez Tr, Luisanna Cabrera & Marcelino Tejada, 395,000, 8 Chelmsford St

Antonio Sanchez, 6-8 Morton St LLC, 380,000, 6-8 Morton St

Shirley Felix, Nara Alicea, 360,000, 40 Chester St

Edmundo Pineda-Cardoza, Karla Bonilla, 314,000, 20 Marie Ln Unit 2

Samuel & Elizabeth Figueroa, Julio Ardon, 305,000, 3 Platt Ct Unit B

US Bank Trust N A Tr, David Peguero, 293,000, 77 Ames St

Phung Tu, Nicholas Silva, 292,000, 158 High St Unit 1-A

Aris Velez & Juanna Develez, Roberto Suero, 265,000, 18 Clarence Ter

Margarita Delacruz & Esmerelda Soler, Jose Vanderhorst, 250,000, 28 W Beacon St Unit 1

Estep Inc, Keury Santiago, 240,000, 202 Broadway Unit 2-3

Juan Cabrera & Angela Vasquez, Juan Cabrera, 215,000, 103 Beacon Ave

Norma Higgins, Deborah Gilbert, 205,000, 14 Shawsheen Rd Unit 7

Omayra Figueroa, Daher Group Inc, 190,000, 35 Chickering St

Gerard Poulin Irrevocable Tr & Andrea and Stephen Poulin Tr, Bianca Lanfranco, 190,000, 6 Shawsheen Rd Unit 3

21 Tremont St Realty Tr & Steven Derosa Tr, Sick Boy Homes LLC, 150,000, 21 Tremont St

Pedro & Zahira Cueva, Bread & Roses Housing Inc, 75,000, 31 Myrtle Ct.

METHUEN

Ilana Marram & David Morey & Bryanna Anderson, Theresa Peterson, 810,000, 1 Locust Rd

Toll MA Land III LP, Mark & Doreen Glowik, 796,244, 7 Hummingbird Way Unit 150

Nicholas Daher, Mohammad Hossain, 780,000, 59 Hampshire St

Robert & Maya Faris, Lenis Perez, 758,000, 151 Cross St

Thomas & Elizabeth Mcdermott, Nancy & Gary Rogers, 755,000, 21 Sequoia Dr Unit 115

Ellen & Roger Sirois, Avery Griffin & Brandon Cawthron, 705,000, 32 Washington St

Toll MA Land III LP, Claudia Mintz, 675,763, 9 Hummingbird Way Unit 149

Joan Morana Zeuli Living Trust & Joseph Morana Tr, Gail Vozzella, 665,000, 38 Sherwood Dr Unit 194

Toll MA Land III LP, Michael & Lisa Jackson, 655,415, 125 Phoebe St

Godoy LLC, Yaneirys Coronado & Carlita De Leon & Pedro Rivera, 625,000, 12 Ditson Pl

Richard Dooley, Milagros Fana & Yismeily Leonardo, 602,000, 312 Broadway

Chong & Myong Pak, John Ianniello & Caroline Fleming, 580,000, 260 Oakland Ave

Bich Pham & Kenny Trinh, Grace Namanda, 570,000, 123 Pleasant Valley St

Robert & Patricia Trudel, Shanna Stephenson, 556,000, 38 Buswell Ave

Capozzi 2014 Family Tr & Michael Capozzi Tr & Coleen Capozzi Tr, Alexandra Dorsi & Philip Gianatasio, 540,000, 30 Wintergreen Cir

Oscarina Quinones, Daniela Vasquez, 530,000, 8 Glenwood Ave

Property Possible Inc, Marcos Pacas, 525,000, 19 Oakcrest Cir

Megda-Luz Huamani, Constantino Quispe Jr, 518,000, 449-451 Lowell St

John & Nicole Houldcroft, Christopher Murph, 515,000, 72 Myrtle St

Contorelli Tr & Linda Contorelli Tr, Angel Mieses, 514,000, 10-12 Longwood Dr

Ellen Furtado, Wilson Raposo, 500,000, 5 Ridge Rd

Saint Christopher Properties LLC, Jesiel Avendanha, 495,000, 189 Oakland Ave

Loretta I Saulen Irrevocable Tr & James Saulen Tr, Luismar Defreitas, 475,000, 31 W Ayer St

Demetrious & Rhonda Wolfe, Nadine Gaspard, 460,000, 4 Thissell St

Lawrence Lemieux & Cherie Aldrich, Tammy Smith, 450,000, 17 Caswell Ave

Roberta Orourke, Jairon Garcia & Jacqueline De Garcia, 445,000, 38 Capitol

St
Kenneth Atkinson Est & Kenneth Atkinson Jr, Nicholas & Lisa Maclauchlan, 440,000, 26 Falmouth St
Remo Avellani , Steven Folley, 440,000, 19 Somerset St
Marte C LLC, Lorenzo Rodriguez & Isabel Guzman, 435,000, 64 Hillcrest Ave
James Dedeus & Maria Dedeus Est & Maria De Deus Est, Robert & Patricia Dean, 425,000, 3 Pleasant Cir
Paul Cook Est & Lisa Wilson & David Nevins, John Brewer, 425,000, 9 Somerset St
E Step Inc & Estep Inc, Gricelda Castenada & Blanca Barrios, 420,000, 12 King St Unit 12
Nancy Hajjar Est & Debra Gilbert, Ronald Rodriguez, 416,000, 11 Woekel Ter
Stacey Dwinal & Suresh Raut, Suresh Raut, 400,000, 27 Anderson Dr
Hentz Family Revocable Tr & Margaret & Karl Hentz Ind Tr, Jaad & Julie Chehab, 399,000, 7 Landing Dr Unit 7
Phong Nguyen & Ngon Pham, Maria De Ramirez & Jose Ramirez, 376,000, 21 Union St
Mihirkumar & Honey Patel, Deborah Ayers, 367,000, 45 Washington St Unit T95
William & Brenda Marcoux, Pval Real Estate LLC, 350,000, 21 Jackson St
Cynthia Pitera & Cynthia Pitera, Ronald & Theres Missick, 345,000, 3 Brandee Ln Unit 29
Bellazar Properties LLC, LTK Ventures LLC, 322,000, 386 Merrimack St Unit 2-A
Luong Tran & Huong Mai, Miguelina Calderon, 320,000, 22 Chadwick St
Joseph A Merlino Revocable Tr & Joseph Merlino Tr, Aurea Borges, 312,000, 23 Hampshire Rd Unit 23-415
Ernest & Edward & George & John Dube, John & Phyllis Dube, 296,625, 1 Charles St
New England Home Buyers LLC, Najib Habib & Tania Khoury, 295,000, 945 Riverside Dr Unit A
Audrey Boulanger & John Ouellette, Jessica Diaz & Alfredo Rivera, 294,000, 41 Adams Ave
Sara Constantin & Scott & Sara Jones, Abraham Lincoln LLC, 290,000, 1 Riverview Blv Unit 8-201
Mevzad & Kelly Durakovic, Yonni Munoz, 215,000, 10 Danbury Dr Unit 10-6
Peter Bajor, Mark Bajor, 80,000, 25 King St
John Bajor, Mark Bajor, 80,000, 25 King St
Kamalkant Patel, Julio Romero, 65,000, Cross St & Hampshire St
Julie Centeno & Curtis & Julie Wilson, Elizabeth & Nathaniel Amaro, 400,000, 99 Camden St
Lloyd Licciardello , Armando Ortiz, 167,500, 46 Ashford St Unit 1

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John F Mcgarry Tr & A Patricia McGarry Tr & John & Patricia Garry Tr, Merrimack College, 12,000,000, 510-530 Turnpike St
Jonathan & Sarah Tucker, BRGS Relocation Inc, 1,400,000, 50 Nutmeg Ln
BGRS Relocation Inc, Olegs & Kristina Mise, 1,400,000, 50 Nutmeg Ln
Tilson Martin Famly Living Tr & Jennifer Marin Tr & Richard Tilson Tr, Donald Felch & Stacy Williamson, 1,350,000, 166 Salem St
Daniel & Joyce Mckew, Joshua & Amy Peters, 1,300,000, 45 Wellington Way
Cesar & Breda Daou, James & Lauren Steadman, 1,160,000, 575 South Bradford St
35 Copley Circle LLC, Jarrett & Kayla Perry, 1,070,000, 35 Copley Cir
Denise Jose,ph Mcmanus, Robert & Kelly Dabrowski, 1,005,000, 39 Kara Dr
Benson & Venna Ho, Meng Cai & Sha Ding, 1,000,000, 2 Breckenridge Rd
Jerry Rice & Meghan Dowling, Lauren Ogorman, 975,000, 197 Campbell Rd
Mark & Elaine Sateriale, Christopher & Amanda Ripa, 815,000, 258 Rea St
Mamft Realty Trust LLC, Terence Hermans Jr, 770,000, 65-67 Maple Ave
Amy & Joshua Peters, Brittini Allain, 750,000, 1925 Salem St
Mamft Realty Trust LLC, Michael & Carolyn Bednarz, 736,000, 262-264 Andover St
Karen Jeffrey-Bramwell, Melmark Inc, 700,000, 26 Allen St
Melinda & Colin Costello & Melinda Ferullo, Matthew Oblenes & Andrea Bushee, 665,326, 58 Compass Point Unit F1
Tyson & Sarah Ortiz, Stanley & Lidia Bosse, 585,000, 501 Boxford St
Maneesh Moota & Tanvi Paripelli, Paul Dagostino Jr & Paige Dagostino, 532,500, 401 Massachusetts Ave
Andover Pulmonary Realty Tr & Barry Pisick Tr & Daniel Coleman Tr & Glenn Newsome Tr, Pulmonary at Chestnut Green Andover LLC, 450,000, 565 Turnpike St Units 82B, 83, & 85
John Guilfoil Property Holdings LLC, Bertrada Properties LLC, 413,000, 795 Turnpike St Units 201-204
Joshua Landry, Ellen Kaplan & Maura Bragg, 390,000, 116 Millpond
Kenneth Girard, Michelle Holt, 350,000, 28 Tolland
Lorraine P Palumbo Declaration of Trust & Lorraine Palumbo Tr, Gjorgji Markovski & Mirjana Markovska, 315,000, 148 Main St Unit F342
William & Denise Andrus, Marc Abouaf, 310,000, 1401 Great Pond Rd Unit 13
Mcevoy Nominee Tr & James Mcevoy Tr, Amanda Espinal, 305,000, 170 Kingston St Unit 170
FEH Nominee Tr & Christian Heiter, John & Maureen Breslin, 290,000, 148 Main St Unit 0-503
John Robleski, Eric & Sherri Leeman, 285,000, 9 Walker Rd Unit 9-11
David Martiroso, Jeremy Ackerman & Katelyn Fisher, 275,000, 90 Edgelawn Ave Unit 1
Victoria Torres-Vega & Victoria Carter & Ian Carter, Steven & Joanne Panzero, 242,000, 3 Ferview Ave Unit 8
Alexandria Sahtouris, Alexander Anoli, 235,000, 2-4 Walker Rd Unit 4
Terrence & Sandra Fox, Daniel & Kayla Serard, 766,000, 12 Rosedale
Alex Borisyuk, Danielle Mcfadries & Gregory Enos, 310,000, 8 Fernview Ave Unit 5
Heritage Green Condominium Trust, Yong Kim & Hye Lee, 235,000, 54 Fernview Unit 5

OBITUARY

Mary Grace LeBlanc (61) years old born and raised in Methuen spent the last 30 years in Haverhill and married to Donald LeBlanc for the last 21 years. Mary leaves behind her husband of 21 years and two kids Raymond Michael Smith 40 years old of Jamaica plain Mass and Jennifer Maria Velasquez and her husband Rolando Velasquez of Haverhill she had three grandchildren Alexia Marie Chase Alejandro Velasquez and Aliana Velasquez. 2 sister Linda peluso and her husband David Peluso of Hampstead New Hampshire, Joanne Lombardo McDonald of Haverhill MA and a brother Dino Lombardo and his wife Allison Lombardo of Haverhill Mass, she was preceded and death by one grandchild Atalya Lynn Chase, her brother Sam Lombardo, and her father Alfio Lombardo. She was a graduate of Methuen high School and attended Northern Essex community college. She also leaves behide several friends. Celebration of life for Mary Leblanc will be on April 15, 2022 at 11 AM at 358 Washington St., Haverhill, MA 01832 if you would like to share a memory about Mary you Who made you show at the celebration of life for Mary a light refreshments will be served. If anyone would like to make a donation they miss do so to somebody cares New England 358Washington St., Haverhill, MA 01832. Or to the liver or Kenny foundations of Massachusetts or to a charity of their choice

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TV TALK with BILL CUSHING

‘Severance’

Bill Cushing
VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST

What if you were able to create a true separation between your work life and your home life, by dividing the connection between the memories you make at work and the thoughts you have when you’re away from the work? That’s the intriguing question that AppleTV+’s ‘Severance’ poses.

After his wife dies in an accident, Mark S. (Adam Scott) is hired by a mysterious corporation called Lumon Industries. Lumon offers a procedure called “severance.” Severance is a process which surgically separates work-related memories from personal memories via a brain implant, and it is required if you want to work in certain parts of Lumon. So, every morning, Mark goes to work at Lumon and forgets about his grief until quitting time. Mark’s “innie” (his work persona) has no knowledge of his life outside the office, while his “outtie” (his home persona) has no recollection of what goes on inside Lumon’s walls.

After the abrupt disappearance of his supervisor and work friend Petey (Yul Vazquez), Mark is promoted to the head of Macrodata Refinement, just one of many separate departments on the subterranean “severed” floor at Lumon. He monitors a team that includes Dylan (Zach Cherry), obsessed less with the job itself than the silly perks presented to those who do the job well, and Irving (John Turturro), a stickler for workplace protocol and devotee of the Eagan family, who are the founders of both the company and Kier, the company town where our characters all live.

The latest addition to the team is Helly (Britt Lower), whom we meet in the premiere episode. We see her hiring process where she’s asked a series of questions that reveal she has no idea who she is or why she’s there. Basically, this version of Helly only exists in Lumon, and everything that happens there will be wiped from her memory as she takes the elevator home that night. Helly is not an enthusiastic participant. Mark is the only character whose outie we follow, and is beginning to suspect something isn’t right at Lumon

What the company really does – precisely what data the protagonists are actually spending their days sorting into unnamed files – is unknown. But the signs aren’t good, given that they are presided over by the unbending, unsmiling and unsevered boss Harmony (Patricia Arquette) and her too happy and equally unsevered assistant, Mr. Milchick (Tramell Tillman, in a hypnotic and terrifying performance).

The mystery of Lumon starts to unravel when Mark meets a man on the outside and the man tells him he is his former colleague and best friend Petey. Mark, with no memory transferral between the two worlds, obviously doesn’t recognize him. Petey has undergone a supposedly impossible re-integration procedure and has sought out Mark to deliver the terrifying message that severance, and Lumon, are a threat to humanity.

Created and executive produced by Dan Erickson, the series crackles with great writing and terrific acting from the entire cast. Especially by Adam Scott, in the best work he’s done. Christopher Walken, John Turturro, and Patricia Arquette also turn in tremendous performances.

‘Severance’ is a slow burn that masterfully controls its momentum over the course of nine excellent episodes, 6 of which are directed by Ben Stiller. The show gets more and more effective and riveting as it goes along and builds to a string of cliffhangers that leaves the viewer eager for more instead of frustrated. In a time when most of us are returning to the office, ‘Severance’ gives us something to think about.

‘Severance’ is available to stream on AppleTV+.

If you have any questions about TV, you can email me at BillsTVTalk@gmail.com. I will answer all of your questions and will feature some of the questions I receive in a future Mailbag column.

Follow me on Twitter @BillsTVTalk and on Facebook at BillsTVTalk for daily up-to-the-minute TV news and discussion.◊

WEATHER 101 with AL KAPRIELIAN

April Showers

Welcome to April and the first full month of the spring season.

During April the days continue to get longer resulting in warmer high temperatures by month’s end. The sun angle will continue to get higher in the sky as we go through the month of April. Even though April is here we can experience drastic changes in weather. We can still get cold air coming down from Canada and it’s still possible to get snow in April. An example is the April fool’s day snowstorm which occurred in 1997.

Many areas saw over two feet of snow. Being April, the snow was heavy and wet (pasty). Due to the heavy weight of the snow this caused power lines and trees, tree limbs to fall. The result of this was widespread power outages with several hundred outages which occurred. The heavy wet snow made for great picture taking and also did not give the appearance that it was April. With a higher sun angle in April this caused a lot of the snow to melt and was gone within a few days.

Recapping March we had a lot of days with temperatures in the 60s and even a few days with temperatures in the 70s. The areas that saw the 70s were away from the chilly ocean waters. During March the ocean temperatures were mainly in the low 40s’. Remember the ocean warms slower than the land areas in the Spring. This is the reason evaporation is always occurring over the ocean, and this is a cooling process, it takes heat out of the air. Another reason is that the ocean is always moving and as a result of this it takes the sun more energy to warm the ocean versus the land. March averaged above normal in terms of temperature and below normal in precipitation. We did not get any big snowstorms in March this year.

There have been previous Marches where we have got more than one big snowstorm during the month. There were some days that we saw snow falling during March. This past March was an active month for severe thunderstorms and tornadoes along the gulf coastal states including Texas and Florida.

Colder air coming down from the northern states was clashing with very warm weather over the southern states. With the colder ocean this causes cooler air near the surface warmer air aloft this makes it a more stable atmosphere over our area this time of year.

Severe thunderstorms and tornadoes form in a warm/hot/ humid airmass which has been occurring over the southern states. Even though we had some warm days in March this was not the case as we got late into the month. A shot of very cold arctic air from Canada moved into our area during the evening of Sunday March 27th. This was unusually cold air for late March.

On Monday March 28th it was a very cold day feeling more like January or February. Boston only reached a high of 33 degrees on Monday March 28th. The record cold (low) max temperature for that day was 33 set back in 1893. Boston tied the record going back to 1893.

Worcester only reached 27 degrees on Monday March 28th. The record cold (low) max temperature for that day was 28. Worcester has a new record cold (low) max for March 28th of 27 degrees set in 2022. So, in March we did see a lot of weather extremes. With the warm weather we had in March many people started bringing out the shorts and putting the winter coats away for another season. With the very cold weather that started the first half of the last week in March it was time to get the winter coat out again. However, this cold arctic air did not last all week.

By Thursday March 31st high temperatures got back into the 60s. The air had a humid feel which was in sharp contrast to how the week started.

What will April bring - any snow, cold air, very warm temperatures?

Stay tuned to next month’s article for these answers. In the meantime enjoy spring and stay safe!! ◊

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The 4 Pillars of the Church

Peter Larocque
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

God Bless and Greetings to you all in Jesus' Name! According to the dictionary, Pillars are defined as a tall vertical structure of stone, wood, or metal, used as a support for a building, or as an ornament or monument. The Bible clearly declares in the 2nd chapter of the book of Acts what the 4 Pillars of the Christian Church are. We read them shortly after the day of Pentecost, the first day of the Church, the Ekklesia, which is a Greek word that simply means "the called out".

The last verse of chapter 2 of Acts reads as follows, "47, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved." NKJV.

All the people were praising God and Grace was with them all and Jesus added daily to the church those who were being saved! Now isn't that the goal of every Christian Church???

Jesus adding to the church daily!!!

What was the formula they followed or the steps they took to make this happen?

Well, let's read and see.

Right after the Apostle Peter delivered the first sermon to the newly established Christian Church, what happened next is recorded in Acts 2:41, "Then those who gladly received his word were baptized, and that day about three thousand souls were added to them."

NKJV. WOW!!! About three thousand souls were added to the Church!!! Can you imagine that happening today? Could today's New Testament Local Church handle that much expansion? Well, what was it that enabled the church at that time to stay afloat? What supported the Church?

This brings us to the 4 Pillars of the Christian Church, and I believe these Pillars would do the same today if they were properly implemented into today's Church. We read about them in the next verse of the book of Acts 2:42, "And (1) they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and (2) fellowship, in (3) the breaking of bread, and in (4) prayers." NKJV.

These 4 simple principles enabled the Church then and I believe they would do the same today if properly applied in today's Christian Church!

The First Pillar, they continued in the Apostles doctrine which was the preaching of the Death, Burial, and Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus Christ, culminating in Acts 2:36, Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." NKJV.

The second Pillar is Fellowship, The Greek word is Koinonia, which means a partnership, social intercourse. This brings me to the Third Pillar, the breaking of bread, this is Holy Communion which was established by Jesus himself the night before his Crucifixion! Then finally the fourth Pillar, Prayer. This is when we acknowledge that

He is God and we are not! We humble ourselves before him as it says in 1 Peter 5:6-7, "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." NKJV.

So, my friends, there you have it, 4 simple principles,

Pillars that the early Christians Church carried out on a daily basis. This would work today, but that would take believing in the Un-Deniable Word of Almighty God and in the Power of the Holy Spirit.

Love you all,
Peter Larocque
peterlarocque@hotmail.com ◊

GAY FROM PAGE 2

there is no one and no answer that can be given to successfully explain why there is such a massive gap between the haves and have nots. Why minorities are more likely to be poor, depressed, addicted to drugs, more susceptible to disease and violent crimes. I know historically why this is so but, no one can provide a solid and valid answer to why we treat others the way we do. So, I'm asking: Why if the 14th Amendment states that all people born in the US are US citizens to be protected by our Constitutional law and our government, are so many still fighting for equality? Anyone? Bueller?

Hysteria runs rampant in America. Let's not allow Chinese people in, they will destroy our economy and job opportunities. Didn't happen. Let's not allow women the right to vote; they're too emotional and will destroy democracy. Didn't happen. Let's not allow black and white Americans to dine, live, work and learn together; it will cause a fraying of our American fabric. Didn't happen. Let's not allow Black and white Americans to marry, it will destroy the American family. Didn't happen. Let's not allow women to work; it will destroy the American workplace. Didn't happen. Let's not allow two men or two women to marry; it will destroy American families. Didn't happen. Now the new hysteria is speaking about sexual orientation will magically turn your children into flaming homosexuals or bulldykes. Not gonna happen. Transgender athletes are being bullied out of sports because it will destroy women's athletics. Not gonna happen. Refusing to acknowledge the LGBTQ+ community will NOT destroy or get rid of us. It will make us stronger.

Keep it up, Florida (and Texas). Keep bringing attention to our community. Add gasoline to the centuries of anger and oppression stoked by your ignorance and fear. You are our oxygen. Every time you bring attention to us, whether it be negative or positive, we get stronger. Ban our books, block our parades, shutdown our dance halls and tell us we can't say gay or lesbian. Our colors will get more vibrant. We'll get so strong, a rainbow wave will wash over America and drown them in song and dance. And unlike all of you with us, you will be welcomed and celebrated. How about you give that a go?◊

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